

Rockingham County 2011-2012 highlights



SCHOOLS

Stormwater SMART had a very successful year in Rockingham County Schools. We attended six schools reaching over 500 students and teachers. We distributed eight certificates to participating teachers and covered programs including *The Incredible Journey*, *Enviroscape*, *River Adventure* (habitat), *Soil to Seed*, and *watershed stewardship*. In addition to working with the following Elementary Schools, Stormwater SMART partnered with the Haw River Assembly to teach over a hundred fourth graders and 25 chaperones at their annual Learning Celebration at Camp Guilrock.

- Wentworth Elementary
- Monroeton Elementary
- Bethany Elementary
- Williamsburg Elementary
- Stoneville Elementary
- Dillard Elementary

FAIRS AND FESTIVALS

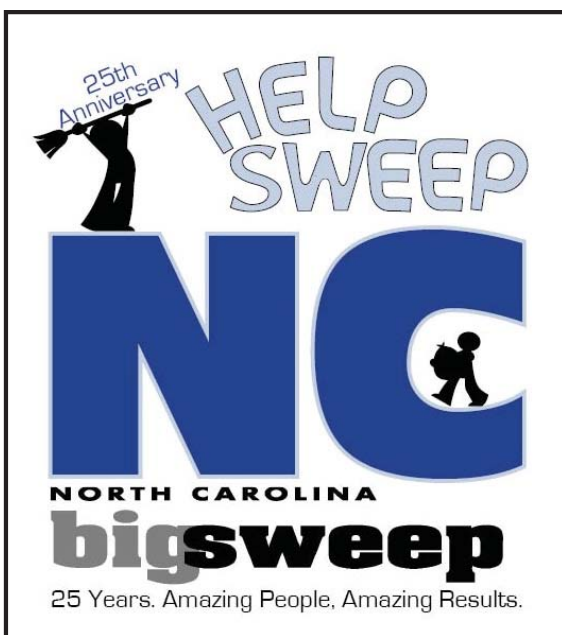
Stormwater SMART attended the Charlie Pool Music Festival in Eden and the Reidsville Fall Festival. Citizens filled out 76 surveys and hundreds of additional participants received educational information, reusable grocery bags, and dog treats displaying information about the importance of pet waste management.

ROCKINGHAM COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Rockingham Soil and Water Conservation District (RCSWD) conducted a series of water quality programs at the Woodmont United Methodist Church in Reidsville. The programs took place on 7/26/2011 (Watershed), 8/2/2011 (Water cycle) and 8/18/2011 (Enviroscape) and reached 37 participants. RCSWD also conducted a series of water quality programs at Lelia's Daycare. The programs took place on 7/26/2011 (Watershed), 8/2/2011 (Water Cycle), 8/9/2011 (Animals, Insects and Water) and 8/16/2011 (Enviroscape) and reached 53 participants.

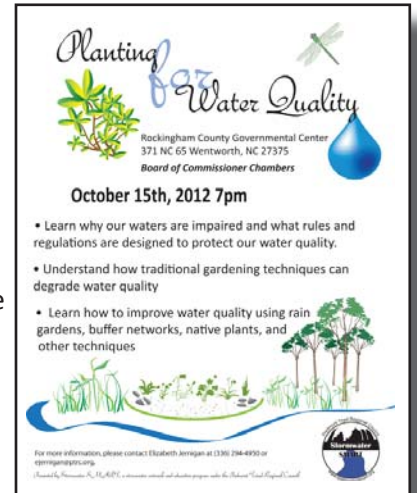
BUSINESS OUTREACH

During the vet day at Pet Sense Pet Shop Stormwater SMART conducted outreach regarding pet waste and gave away free dog bones to approximately 50 visitors. Pet Sense provided 50 additional dog bones to customers at a later event.



PRESENTATIONS

Stormwater SMART addressed the Jordan Lake Rules at a planning board meeting. The meeting was open to public and outlined how traditional gardening techniques can degrade water quality, how people can improve water quality using rain gardens, buffer networks, and other best management practices, and how native plants can benefit wildlife, water quality, and neighborhoods and green spaces. Stormwater SMART provided a program to approximately 20 people in the Hoe and Hope Garden Club on the water quality benefits of native plants and was featured on Rockingham County Radio discussing stream monitoring and water quality.



Buffer in a Bookmark

A buffer is a combination of grasses, flowers, shrubs and trees that slows the flow of stormwater and allows it to absorb into the ground.

Buffers:

- prevent erosion
- filter out pollution &
- provide habitat

This bookmark is embedded with wildflower seeds. Enjoy watching your flowers grow while protecting our waters!



MATERIALS

Stormwater SMART worked with Davidson County to distribute brochures, new homeowner information guides, flyers, the Stormwater Steward and other information educating citizens about the actions they can take to improve water quality. Topics include: general stormwater, pet waste, low impact development, riparian buffers, vehicle washing and maintenance, landscaping for water quality, septic system maintenance, rain garden design and function, hazardous waste disposal, and proper fertilizer use. All materials are available on our website, www.stormwatersmart.org.

BIG SWEEP

Citizens from Rockingham County participated in the 2011 NC Big Sweep last fall. Countywide, 100 volunteers cleaned an estimated 10 miles of stream, collecting approximately 400 pounds of trash.

STREAMWATCH TRAINING

Stormwater SMART held a Stream Watch Training held at Camp Guilrock on the Haw River in partnership with the Haw River Assembly – a third of the participants were from Rockingham County.

BUFFER IN A BOOKMARK

This year we launched the “Buffer in a Bookmark” program to Stormwater SMART libraries. These libraries received copies of our newsletter, a personal letter educating them about our programs and bookmarks made of paper seeded with native wildflowers and information about the important role plants play in protecting water quality.

